

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

July 21, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, John Brass, William “Carey” Jenkins, Willie George Lee, Jerry Thibeau, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Hoover, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau,
ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
3. Minutes
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Thibeau to approve the June 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report
 - Rouchon presented to the Board the June 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Lee, second by Brass to approve the June 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
5. Report by Executive Director - Discussed the following items:
 - PCT Meeting was held at LA DOTD on July 13, 2015.
 - USACE: The USACE was able to allocate an additional \$2,000,000.00 for the following: Engineering design LA Hwy. 19; Repair the Lilly Bayou Structure; Engineering Design the Bayou Baton Rouge Structure. Solicitations for the US Hwy. 61 Bypass – bids are scheduled for opening in August 2015.
 - Floodplain Management Plan may be completed prior to the CRDC Task Force Committee meeting.
 - Discussion of need for Brooks Lake Closure. Need to do a study/analysis of the frequency of the high water on Comite vs. high water of Mississippi. DOTD sent a letter to USACE on this matter.
 - DOTD: Real Estate – Act of Sale ADV-10, McCaleb was signed and forwarded to DOTD. Other properties are at various stages of completion.
 - Discussed a DOTD Spreadsheet/Hand-out of ADV’s and Mitigation.
 - ROE: ARBC issued 2 ROE(s). One to allow for the removal of dirt at Lilly Bayou Site, and another is ROE for the construction of the US Hwy. 61 bypass located on the ADV-10 property. ARBC is processing a ROE for the USACE to do surveys and borings necessary for the BR Bayou structure design in the vicinity of Carney Road.
 - Amite River Weir Update: Sent Hydraulic Study of the Amite River Diversion Canal weir prepared by GEC Consulting Engineers to the Ponchartrain Levee District to proceed with the Engineering Design to rectify the weir structure. Amite River Old Channel Assessment Trip – 7/23/15. LPSO is providing 2 boats/drivers, and Ben Babin’s party barge will be used for around 20 people from different agencies to attend. Rietschier’s objective is to do a study on the Old Channel to bring it back to normalcy. It is an environmental and hydrological problem.
 - Property Leases:
 1. ADV-5 Bajoie: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon second by Jenkins authorizing Bankston to send Lawrence and Mabel Bajoie a letter with notification that they owe ARBC rent beginning July 2015, as stated in the Lease Agreement with ARBC.
 2. ADV-7 & 8 Bergeron: Send a letter to Nick and Jill Bergeron notifying them that rent will be due beginning in October 2015, as per the Amended Lease Agreement with ARBC, with no additional extensions allowed.
 - Report by Delmar, DOTD: DOTD Environmental has completed the Phase 1 HTRW surveys for the McHugh Swamp Area. A Phase 2 HTRW was recommended for the Beech Grove Farm property, Parcel 39. DOTD Real Estate is working on appraisals for the three parcels in McHugh Swamp and completing the review of all the appraisals previously performed. Once property requires a survey to separate the parcel into the two parts, the acquisition and the requested remainder. Two parcels, M3-115 and 46, require a timber crew to appraise the timber that is on the property. DOTD Utility Relocation is working to finalize the relocations of the power lines at Highway 61. USACE has acquired some additional funds and are willing to look at the Brooks Lake Closure feature. As such, DOTD Project Management has sent a letter to USACE requesting that they review the feature.
6. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel: Discussed Act #423 Per Diem. The Board will have the opportunity, following legal advertisement, to set the amount of Per Diem above \$60 per meeting, up to 75% of what the Legislature receives or less.
7. Old Business: None
8. New Business: ARBC Office Lease Renewal:
 - Per Diem: The Board unanimously agreed on motion by Thibeau, second by Lee to advertise, in the Advocate, to set the amount of Per Diem for ARBC above \$60. This will be on the ARBC August 18, 2015 Agenda to discuss and vote

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upon. If approved, it will become effective August 1, 2015. This will allow for consideration of an increase in Per Diem. It will remain at a maximum of 24 meetings per year, one per day. This Public Notice will advertise on August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of 2015.

9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Lee to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson
Don Thompson, ARBC President
Date: August 18, 2015

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary